Islamic Family Law in Europe and the Islamic World

This symposium will address the interactions between Europe and the Islamic world, regarding the interpretation and implementation of Islamic family law, the challenges of this phenomenon faced by both sides, as well as the solutions that are at our disposal. This symposium represents an opportunity for researchers from different specialties and different European and non-European states to approach these issues through interdisciplinary perspectives, to compare and to discuss workable solutions. The results of this symposium will be relevant for stakeholders, researchers, Muslim communities as well as legal institutions in Europe and the Islamic world.

The symposium offers a forum for discussing the dynamics of Muslim matrimonial laws (marriage, divorce and cognate issues), as they are debated and developing in thought and practice among Muslims both in Muslim-majority states and Muslim minorities in modern and contemporary Europe. Participants, who are drawn from a range of disciplines including law, Islamic studies, social anthropology and other social sciences, are invited to present their respective research and understanding of these issues.

The following issues will be addressed:

- The current state of the debate regarding the implementation of the Islamic family law in the Islamic world and in the European context.
- The interaction between the family laws of Europe and the Islamic world taking place on account of migration and other factors.
- The current positions of Islamic scholars and religious institutions regarding the Islamic family law.
- Islamic family law and secular states in Europe: challenges and potential developments.

Organization

Organisation  
Prof. Dr. Mouez Khalfaoui (University of Tübingen)  
and Prof. Dr. Justin Jones (Oxford University)

Contact  
mouez.khalfaoui@uni-tuebingen.de

Day 1 (25 September 2019)

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<td>Opening session/SR4</td>
<td>Prof. Dr. Karima Nour-Aissaoui, Abdel AL Malik Saidi, University Tétouan, Morocco</td>
<td>Dr. Mohamad Esayed, Al Azhar University, Cairo</td>
<td>Prof. Dr. Justin Jones, Oxford University, UK</td>
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<td>09.30–11.00</td>
<td>Session I</td>
<td>“The Current Debate on the Mudawana in Morocco”</td>
<td>“Al-Azhar and the Reform of the Islamic Family Law”</td>
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<td>Session II</td>
<td>Speaker 1  Prof. Dr. Mulki Al-Sharmani, University of Helsinki</td>
<td>Speaker 2  Dr. Rajnaara Akhtar, De Montfort University Leicester and Georgetown University Qatar</td>
<td>Speaker 3  Prof. Dr. Yüksel Sezgin, Maxwell University, USA</td>
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<td>“Islamic Family Law as a Contested site for Multiple Reforms: Reflections From Egypt and Finland”</td>
<td>“Islamic Unregistered Marriage Contract Law in Qatar and England”</td>
<td>“Islamic Family Laws in non-Muslim Countries”</td>
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<td>Response  Dr. Yafa Shanneik, University of Birmingham</td>
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<td>Speaker 1  Dr. Mahmoud Jaraba, Max-Planck-Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle</td>
<td>Speaker 2  Dr. Yafa Shanneik, University of Birmingham &amp; Maram Al-Thenibat, Islamic University, Lebanon</td>
<td>Speaker 3  Prof. Dr. Christian Majer, University of Ludwigsburg</td>
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<td>“Sharia in Action: How Muslim Religious Actors Practice Khul’ and Child Custody in Germany”</td>
<td>“Lost in Legal Systems – Marriage and Divorce Among Syrian and Iraqi Refugees in Germany and Jordan”</td>
<td>“Marriage Between Minors and German Law”</td>
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<td>Moderator  Debora Müller, University of Tuebingen</td>
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Day 3 (27 September 2019)

9.00–11.00  Session VII
Workshops challenges and solutions

All participants will take part in the workshops. Participants will have the opportunity to work with one of the four groups. The groups will be announced during the first days and four lists will be presented. The groups work simultaneously. In the afternoon the results of their work will be presented and discussed in the plenum.

Group 1  What is going wrong with Islamic family law? (SR3)
Moderation  Nabil Arfaoui, University La Manouba, Tunisia
Participants

Group 2  The Islamic family law in Muslim states: current situation and challenges (SR4)
Moderation  Prof. Dr. Hans George Ebert, Leipzig University
Participants

Group 3  The position of women in Islamic family law: past and present (BRDT)
Moderation  Dr. Mehmetcan Akpinar, University of Tuebingen
Participants

Group 4  Islamic family law as a subject of research: what kind of research do we currently need? (RefR)
Moderation  Dr. Ricarda Stegmann, University Freiburg, Switzerland
Participants

11.00–11.30  Coffee break

11.30–13.30  Session VIII
Presentation of the results of the workshops/SR4

General Moderation Judit Kuschnitzki, Pembroke College, Cambridge University
Participants

13.30–15.00 Lunch

15.00–16.30  Session IX
Final discussion and evaluation/SR4

General Moderation Justin Jones & Mouez Khalfaoui

Day 2 (26 September 2019)

9.30–11.00  Session IV
How Muslim communities conceive of Islamic family law/ SR4

Speaker 1  Prof. Dr. Neila Sellini, University of Sousse, Tunisia
“The Ulama of Zeitouna and the Reform of Islamic Family Law in Tunisia” (in French)

Speaker 2  Selma Oztürk-Pinar, Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University, “Intersexuality (Khuntha) in Islamic and German legal conceptions”

Speaker 3  Dr. Karim El Chazli, institut suisse de droit comparé “Oral divorce in Egyptian Family Law”

Moderation  Hadil Lababidi, M.A., University of Erlangen-Nürnberg
Response  Prof. Dr. Abdessamad Belhaj, University Louvain-Laneuve, Belgium

11.00–11.30  Break

11.30–13.00  Session V
Religious authorities and the Islamic family law/ SR4

Speaker 1  Prof. Dr. Shaheen Serdar Ali, Warwick University
“Gender Issues as a Challenge for Modern Islamic Family Law”

Speaker 2  Dr. Islam Uddin, Middlesex University, UK “Islamic Family Law: Imams, mosques, and Shariah Councils in the UK”

Moderation  Prof. Dr. Mathias Rohe, University of Erlangen-Nürnberg
Participants  Selma Oztürk Pinar M.A., University of Ankara

13.00–14.00 Lunch

14.00–15.45  Session VI
Classical Islamic family law and the challenges of modernity/SR4

Speaker 1  Prof. Dr. Mohammed Nekroumi, University of Erlangen-Nürnberg

Speaker 2  Dr. Ranya Jamil, University of Erlangen “Marriage with the Intention of Divorce”

Speaker 2  Prof. Dr. Mouez Khalfaoui “Dynamics of Continuity and Change: Islamic Family Law in Europe”

Moderation  Dr. Nahed Samour, Humboldt University, Berlin
Response  Dr. Noha Abdelhadi, University of Hamburg

15.45–16.00 Break

16.00–17.30  Panel discussion
Rethinking the Islamic family law in new social, religious, and legal contexts/SR4

Moderation  Prof. Dr. Mathias Rohe, University of Erlangen-Nürnberg
Participants  Selma Oztürk Pinar M.A., University of Ankara

17.30  Dinner